United States District Court

District of Connecticut

Case Management

CM / ECF

Electronic Case Files

Attorney User's Manual for ECF

(Electronic Case Filing)

Updated December 1, 2007

Honorable Robert N. Chatigny Chief United States District Judge

> Roberta D. Tabora Clerk

1. Registering for Access

If your use of the CM/ECF system will be limited to querying specific cases, your PACER login and password should be used for this access.

If you intend to use the CM/ECF system to file documents over the internet, you must register for a court issued login and password, which is used in conjunction with your PACER login and password. To obtain this access, log onto the court's CM/ECF website (www.ctd.uscourts.gov) and download a registration form or contact the Clerk's Office (Hartford: (860) 240-3200; Bridgeport: (203) 579-5861; New Haven: (203) 773-2140) to obtain a form. Send completed registration form to:

Clerk, United States District Court Attention: CM/ECF Registration 141 Church Street New Haven, CT 06510

or fax to 203-773-2334

Once your registration form is processed, you will be issued a login and password which will allow access to our **live database**. You are encouraged to attend our training class to familiarize yourself with the CM/ECF System. Those who attend the training class are issued a login and password for the training database. You will continue to have access to the training database with that login and password after the date of your class for ongoing training and practice.

Use your PACER login/password to view and print docket sheets or other information.

Use your CM/ECF login/password to file documents in a case, using the internet.

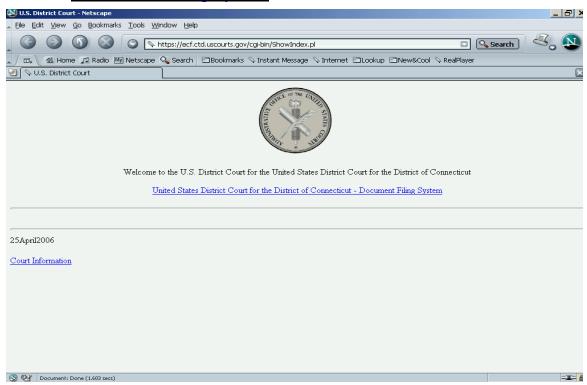
By submitting a registration form, users agree to abide by the following:

a. The system is to be used only in those cases designated by the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut for electronic filing. It may be used to file and view electronic documents and docket sheets.

- b. Documents are to be submitted electronically, only in Portable Document Format (PDF).
- c. The combination of the user login and password, issued by the Court, will serve as the signature for the attorney filing the document. Attorneys are responsible for the safekeeping and security of their passwords and are required to immediately notify the Court if they suspect or learn that their password has been compromised.

2. Accessing the District of Connecticut Official Court Electronic Case Filing System

- a. Reach us via the **Internet** at https://ecf.ctd.uscourts.gov
- b. Click on link <u>United States District Court for the District of Connecticut</u>
 Document Filing System



c. Enter your assigned **Login/User Name** and your **Password** to access the CM/ECF database. This will deliver you to the **Court Page**. You will then have seven options: *Civil, Criminal, Query, Reports, Utilities, Search, and Logout*. There is also a HELP feature built into the system, accessible by clicking on the yellow question mark.

[If you receive an error message, click on the "Back" button and re-enter your login and password. A Security Information box may appear advising you that you are already logged in. If this occurs, click on *continue* to proceed to logging in.]



3. Navigation

The *Blue* menu toolbar to the right of the CMECF logo allows navigation within CM/ECF, using drop-down and cascading menus. The standard browser navigation toolbar allows user to go back or forward screens or to print.

When exiting from CM/ECF **ALWAYS** click the **Logout** button first, before closing your browser.

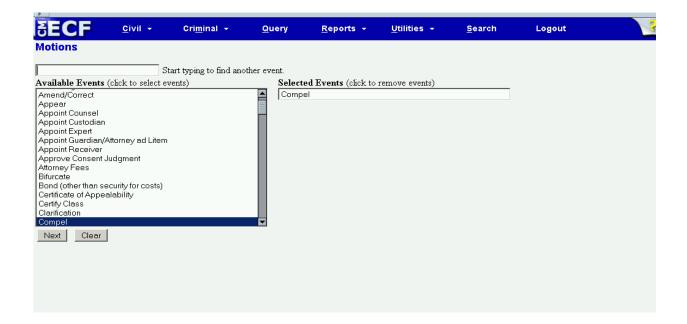
4. Civil Events

To file a civil document electronically, click on *Civil Events* option on the blue menu bar. You will then be asked to file a document from one of the following primary categories: (1) Initial Pleadings and Service; (2) Motions and Related Filings or (3) Other Filings.



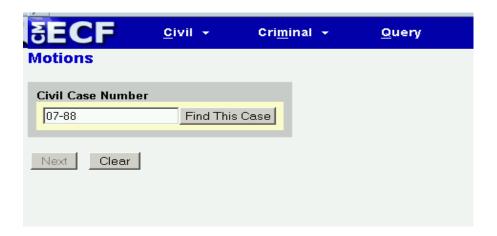
Each primary category contains subcategories of events, all of which are accessible through a series of drop-down menus. Viewing the primary categories, select the subcategory option that applies to your filing. After selecting an option, you will be promoted for a more specific selection. For example: Select "Motions" from the "Motions and Related Filings" category.

- a. Identify the main document you are filing (e.g., a Motion to Compel) by selecting one of the options listed in the drop-down menus. You must use the titles provided. You may select more than one item within the category. Each item selected will appear in the box to the right.
- b. If you are unable to select a document type from the available list of documents, you are encouraged to contact one of the help desks for assistance.



You will then be prompted to do the following:

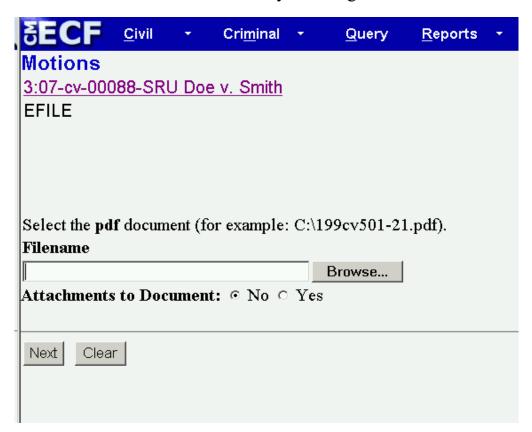
c. Enter a case number entered as YY-NNNN.



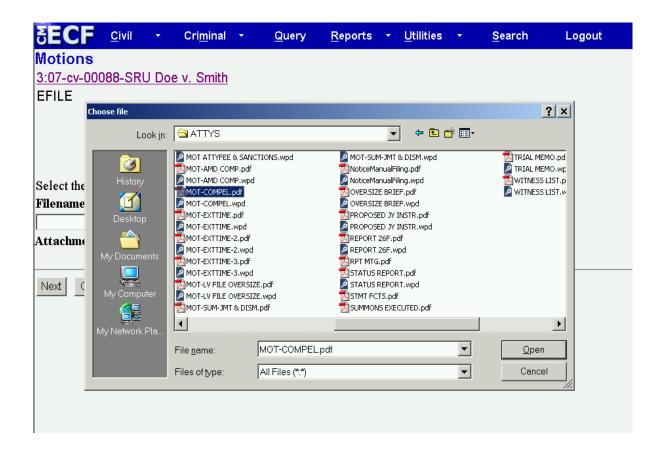
d. Identify the party for whom you are filing the document (if necessary, you may add parties at this point using the court's approved party indexing instructions; if you are not associated with the party as counsel, you will be prompted to create an association - at this point, be sure you have selected the correct party!) If you need to select more than one party, hold down the control key and use your mouse to point and click on each party.



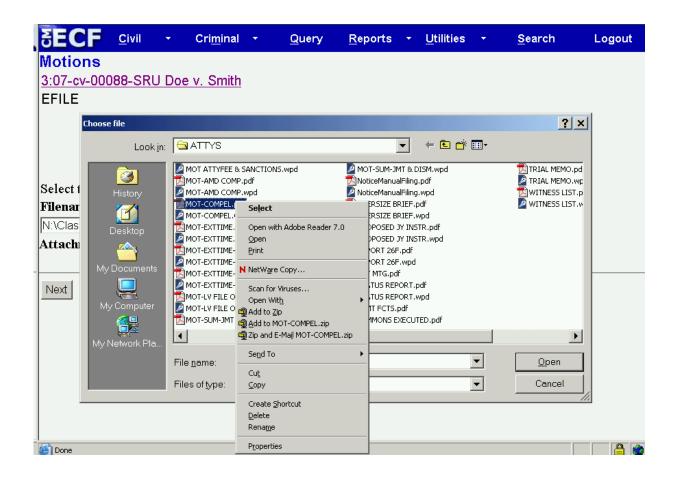
- e. Click on "Next" to get to the next screen where you will be able to upload a document for filing.
- f. To select a document you have created, saved and published to PDF on your local computer click on the "*Browse*" button, then navigate to the drive where you stored your document. Important notes:
 - i. Only PDF documents may be e-filed
 - ii. If you fail to designate a PDF document for filing, you will be unable to continue with your filing



Once you click on "Browse" and navigate to the location of your document, highlight the document you have created and saved in PDF format.



Before uploading it to the system, open the document to be sure it is readable and is the correct document for this particular filing. This is the only point in the efiling process where you may view the pdf prior to committing the transaction to the database. View your pdf by right clicking on the highlighted document, which will provide a drop-down screen. Click on "Open" to view the document.



NOTE: DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP!! The court has received documents, inadvertently, that were not what counsel intended to send. A few seconds of safety will save embarrassment later.

If this is the correct document, close the window by clicking on the "x" in the reader window and click on the "Open" button in the bottom right corner. This "Open" button translates to "Upload" the document to the system.

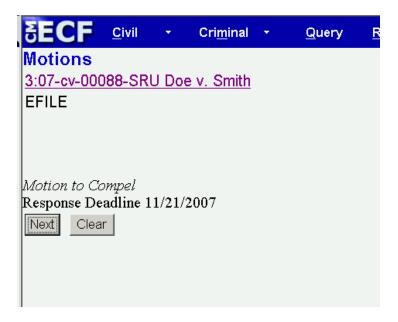
g. Identify if you have attachments to accompany your main document (e.g., a memorandum in support, an affidavit, exhibits, etc.) by clicking the "Yes" radio button next to "Attachments to Document."



h. Link the attachments to your main document following all three steps.



i. At this point you may be provided with the 21-day response deadline. Just click next.



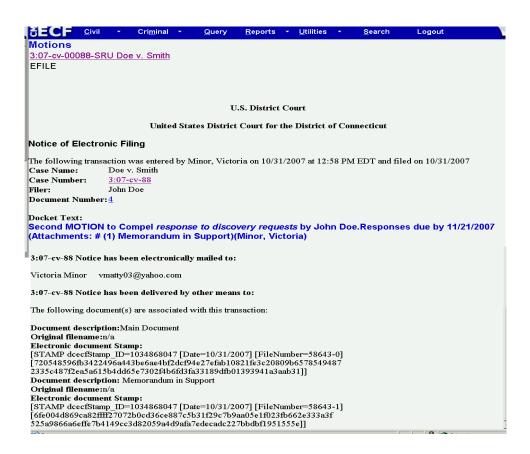
j. Augment the entry by adding free text, if needed



k. Accept the final entry approving it for submission



1. At the end of this process, you will receive a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF). This notice is generated by the Court's server upon receipt of your Internet filing. SAVE THIS NOTICE as it is your proof of the date and time your filing was accepted by the System.



** Reminder: If any names and addresses appear under the heading "Notice will be delivered by other means to:" you must print out a paper copy of your filing and mail it to the address(es) listed.

5. Criminal Events

To file a document electronically in a criminal case, follow the same process as in Section 4., Civil Events.

Special items of note:

- a. Only counsel of record may access documents filed in criminal cases prior to November 1, 2004.
- b. Sealed documents should NOT be filed over the internet and should, instead, be filed in the traditional manner, in paper, with a disk.

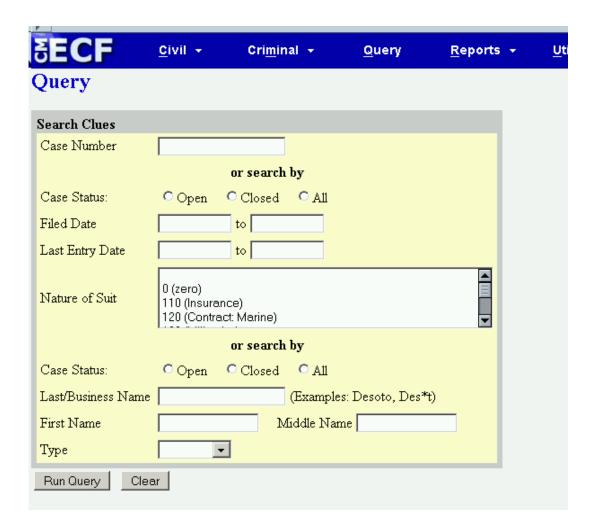


6. Query

Query allows you to view information on a specific case, to search for specific party or attorney names or find cases that fall within specific parameters. To access this feature, you will be prompted for your PACER login and password.



Once logged in, your search options are: (1) by case number; (2) by filed or entered date; (3) by nature of suit; or (4) by name for parties or attorneys.



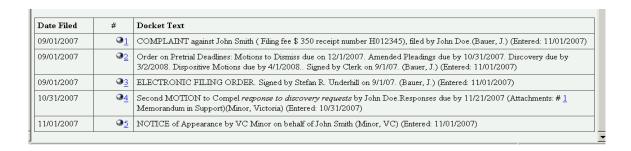
Once the search criteria is entered, the following screen will be displayed:



- a. Alias: displays any aliases attached to any party (e.g., d/b/a, f/k/a, etc.)
- b. Associated cases: displays if there are any consolidated cases
- c. Attorney: displays each attorney and the party represented



- d. Case File Location: displays archive information, if available
- e. Case Summary: displays basic statistical information on the case without docket entries
- f. Deadlines/Hearings: displays any deadlines or hearings, pending or terminated
- g. Docket Report: displays the docket sheet



h. Filers: by clicking on a selected party, displays documents filed by the selected party and provides a link to the underlying docket text.

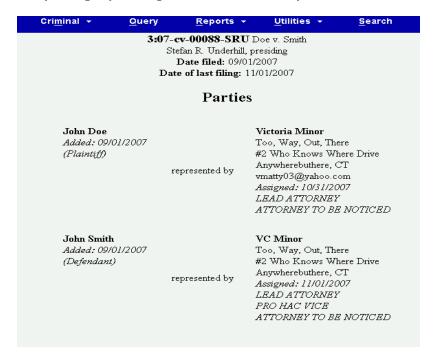




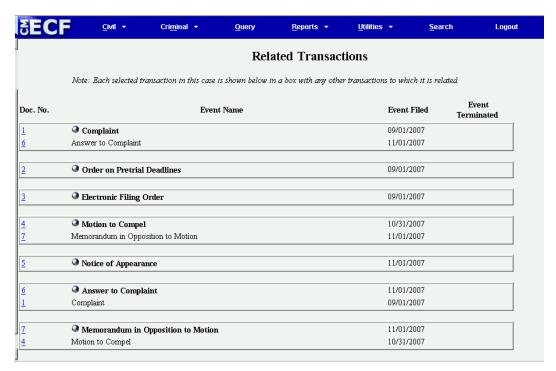
i. History/Documents: displays the basic docket entries with links to specific docket text



j. Party: displays the parties and attorneys



k. Related Transactions: displays transactions that have been linked (e.g., motion, memo in support, memo in opposition, order on motion)



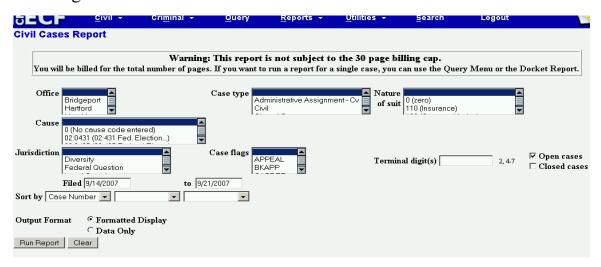
- 1. Status: this feature is not currently being used.
- m. View a Document: allows you to specify one document to view without running the entire docket sheet.

7. Reports

This option allows you to generate lists of civil cases, criminal cases, docket sheets or judgments.



Search criteria include nature of suit, case flags, cause of action, filed date range or terminal digit. At least one selection criteria must be entered.



Once the criteria are selected, run the report and the following type of screen will appear:

Civil •	Crimin	al ·	Query		Reports		Offlities
Civil Cases Report							
U.S. District Court - District of Connecticut							
Filed Report Period: 01/01/2003 - 10/26/2003							
Date Filed/ Reopened/ Added	Date Closed/ Reclosed	Days Pending			Notes		
Filed: 09/17/2003		39	NOS: Civil Rig Office: New H Presider: Geta Referrat: Holly Jury demand:	hts: Jobs aven ard L. Ga B. Fitzs None	i ettel		
Filed: 09/17/2003		39	NOS: Civil Rig Office: New H Presider: Gera	hta: Jobs aven ard L. Go	I		
Filed: 04/17/2003		192	NOS: Forfeit/F Office: New H Presider: Jane	Penalty: (aven it B. Arte	Other		
	Date Filed/ Reopened/ Added Filed: 09/17/2003	### U.S. Distribution	U.S. District Con	Civil Cases Re U.S. District Court - District Filed Report Period: 01/01/2 Date Filed/ Reopened/ Added Filed: 08/17/2003 Date Closed/ Reclosed Pending Cause: Family NOS: Civil Rig Office: New H Presider: Gera Referral: Holly Jury demand: Case Flags: New H Presider: Gera Jury demand: Filed: 04/17/2003 192 Cause: Parily NOS: Forfeit/F Office: New H Presider: Gera Jury demand: 192 Cause: 28:134 NOS: Forfeit/F Office: New H Presider: Jane Jury demand:	Civil Cases Report U.S. District Court - District of Co Filed Report Period: 01/01/2003 - 1 Date Filed/ Reopened/ Added Filed: 09/17/2003 Date Closed/ Reclosed Pending Cause: Family & Medio NOS: Civil Rights: Jobs Office: New Haven Presider: Gerard L. Go. Referral: Holly B. Filtzs July demand: None Case Flegs: MOTREF HBF Filed: 09/17/2003 39 Cause: Family & Medio NOS: Civil Rights: Jobs Office: New Haven Presider: Gerard L. Go. July demand: None Filed: 04/17/2003 192 Cause: 28:1345 USA F. NOS: Forfeit/Penalty: 0 Office: New Haven Presider: Janet B. Arte July demand: None	Civil Cases Report U.S. District Court - District of Connecticut Filed Report Period: 01/01/2003 - 10/26/2003 Date Filed/Reopened/Reclosed/Reclosed Pending Filed: 09/17/2003 Date Closed/Reclosed/Reclosed/Reclosed Pending Days Pending Cause: Family & Medical Leave Act NOS: Civil Rights: Jobs Office: New Haven Presider: Gerard L. Goettel Referret: Holly B. Fitzsimmons Jury demand: None Cause: Family & Medical Leave Act NOS: Civil Rights: Jobs Office: New Haven Presider: Gerard L. Goettel Jury demand: None Filed: 04/17/2003 192 Cause: 28:1345 USA Plaintiff NOS: Forfeit/Penalty: Other Office: New Haven Presider: Janet B. Arterton Jury demand: None	Civil Cases Report U.S. District Court - District of Connecticut Filed Report Period: 01/01/2003 - 10/26/2003 Date Filed/ Reopened/ Reclosed/ Pending Filed: 09/17/2003 39 Cause: Family & Medical Leave Act NOS: Civil Rights: Jobs Office: New Haven Previder: Gerard L. Goettel Referral: Holly B. Fitzsimmons Jury demand: None Case Flegs: MOTREF HBF Filed: 09/17/2003 39 Cause: Family & Medical Leave Act NOS: Civil Rights: Jobs Cffice: New Haven Previder: Gerard L. Goettel Jury demand: None Filed: 04/17/2003 192 Cause: 28:1345 USA Plaintiff NOS: Forfeit/Penalty: Other Cffice: New Haven Presider: Janet B. Arterton Jury demand: None

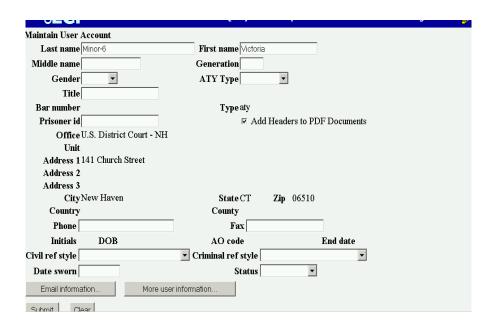
Once at the report screen, if more information on a particular case is needed, clicking on the hyperlink will take you to the case's docket sheet. If there are electronic documents on the case, they may be accessed, provided there are no restrictions (i.e., documents are sealed.)

8. *Utilities*

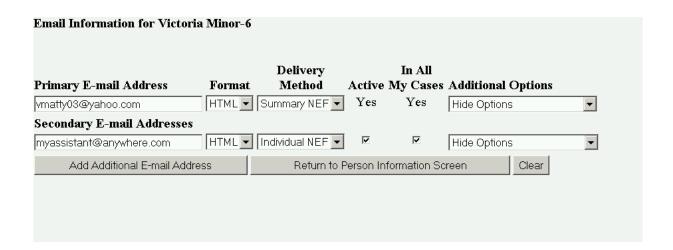
This menu allows a user to manage his or her account and view various logs and billing information. When accessing this feature, the following screen will display:



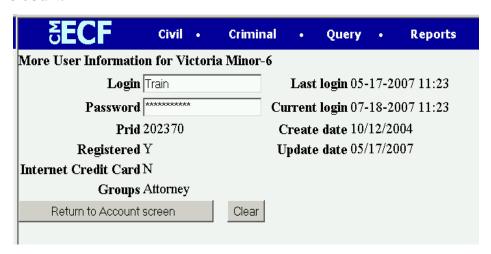
a. Maintain Your Account:



Users are permitted to change telephone and fax information. By clicking on the "Email information. ." button, users may update primary email addresses, select additional addresses at which activity notices may be received and elect to receive email of activity in selected cases in which the user is not counsel of record.



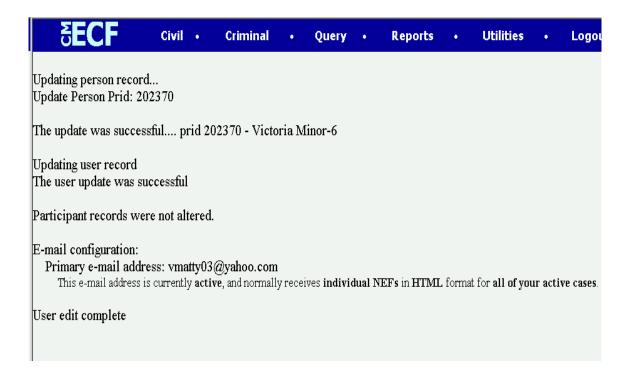
Upon returning to the account screen, by clicking on the "Maintain user information. .." button, users may update password access to the system. It is recommended that users change their passwords upon receiving an assigned login and initial password from the court.



This screen will also provide information on the person ID number, the group to which the user is assigned, if the user is registered, the last login date, the current

login date and time, the date the login was created and if applicable, the date the login was updated.

Click on the "Return to Account screen" button, then on the "submit" button at the bottom of the screen, to confirm the changes to the user profile. Once submitted, the following message will display:



b. View Transaction Log

This report will list, chronologically, transactions in the system under the user's login and password. If you suspect that your login and password are being used without your permission, please notify the Clerk's Office immediately.

9. Exiting the System

You must click on the "Logout" button first before closing your browser. If you close your browser (by clicking on the "x" in the upper right corner or by using the drop-

down option on the "File" menu) and you do not log off properly, even though your browser is closed, the system will continue to log your user id and password as in active use.

10. System Security

Attorneys are responsible for appropriate and authorized use of logins and passwords. Every effort should be made to protect the security of your logins and passwords and to prevent their unauthorized distribution and use.

11. User's Manual

This user's manual is also available, in PDF format, on the court's CM/ECF website. You may view and/or print this manual at any time.

12. Policies and Procedures Manual

The Policies and Procedures for CM/ECF, as adopted and approved by the Court, is available on-line, in PDF format, on the court's website. Users are strongly encouraged to view and print this document as it provides guidance on various filing issues for both civil and criminal cases. The manual, in conjunction with the local rules, is the governing document for electronic filing in this district.

13. On-Line Support

On-line support is available from the court website via email. To leave a message for the help desk, email cmecf@ctd.uscourts.gov. The email should be as specific as possible and must include:

- a. Your name
- b. Telephone number where you can be reached during the day
- c. Your return email address
- d. A detailed description of the question or problem

14. Hardware and Software Requirements

Successful participation in the ECF project requires:

- a. A connection to the Internet
- b. Adobe Acrobat
- c. PDF Writer
- d. FireFox 1.5 and 2.0, Internet Explorer 7.0 and 6.0, or Netscape 7.2

15. Scanning or Imaging Documents into PDF format for E-filing

For most documents, your word processing system can create and generate the PDF versions required for filing. Documents created in this manner are smaller and more efficient sized files and are preferred for e-filing over the Internet. However, there are instances when files must be scanned into images and converted to PDF files for e-filing. When this occurs, please use the following guidelines:

- a. Each file may not exceed 5 MB
- b. Scan everything to black and white
- c. Select the lowest possible resolution (preferably 200 bit)
- d. Split larger documents into smaller increments
- e. Open the scanned file to be sure it is readable; if it is not, rescan the document until it is
- f. Verify the scanned document has the correct number of pages
- g. Once verified, save the file as a PDF file, using the following naming convention: [case number][name of document]; For Example: 03cv55555ExhPart1; 03cv55555ExhPart2, etc.
- h. Do not use dashes (-), slashes (/), spaces or any other special characters in the document name

If a document cannot be scanned into PDF format, attach a *Notice of Manual Filing* to the main document, indicating that part of the filing is electronic and part of the filing is in paper. Make sure the *Notice of Manual Filing* is converted to pdf format and efiled and the originals are sent to the court.

i. If submitting documents on disk to the court, in lieu of filing over the Internet, please use one disk per case number. Do not mingle filings from different cases on the same computer disk.